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THE McDOWELL TIMES

FROM THE BILLION
ACAL FIELD IN THE
GEOGRAPHICAL CEN-
TER OF INDUSTRY

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Council Meets; City To Lower Expenses

Young Men's Progressive Club of Mt. Chapel Baptist Meets

Last Sunday night at the Mt. Chapel Baptist church there was an occasion for a very interesting meeting among men only. A well-arranged program was presented and despite the inclement weather, the meeting was well attended and executed without a hitch. The presiding officer was Mr. Raymond Smith, teacher in the Keystone-Eckman Junior high school.

Opening song was sung by the Mt. Chapel Baptist choir.

Invocation was by Deacon A. Lemons followed by another song by the Mt. Chapel choir.

Remarks were by the President of the club, Mr. William Howard followed by a selection by Northfork School Quartett.

The guest speaker was the popular teacher and scholar, Prof. U. H. Prunty, principal, Browns Creek District high school located at Kimball.

A solo next followed given by the versatile singer Miss Esther M. Eakins and Prof. R. C. Oulkes, Athletic Director of Northfork District high school gave a very interesting reading that was deeply appreciated by the young people present.

Remarks—Messrs. Angrove and Hart, representatives and organizers for the Boy Scouts of America.

Selection—by the Northfork school quartet.

Paper—by the Honorable Edward Slaughter.

Recitation—Mr. Earnest F. Howard.

Silver Offering was at this juncture lifted and benediction by the Reverend Mr. Isaac Jones.

These gentlemen have organized not for fun and frolic but for real business and the books are open for new members.

53 Moorehouse Students Win College Scholastic Honors

Atlanta, Ga., March 25 (Spcl.)—The Moorehouse Honor Roll, recently released from the office of the Registrar, reveals that 53 men have maintained an average of B or above throughout the first semester of the present academic year. Highest honors go equally to Charles Maxey, of Anniston, Ala., a member of the freshmen class and to Leon Clark, Junior, of Atlanta. Running a close race for class honors are the Juniors and the Seniors, with the Freshmen next in line. Largest number representing any class are Seniors, who have 18 honor men, and falling short one man is the Junior class with 17 men on the honor roll. Thirteen freshmen and five sophomores have won places.

City of Keystone Reduces Operating Expenses; Pays Bonds, and Lives Within Its Budget—City Departments Efficient

At a special meeting of the common council of the city of Keystone, Wednesday night, a material and substantial curtailment was made in the operating expenses of this city. This reduction in expenses was made by a determined desire to have this city live within its budget and carry on the progressively advanced program of the city.

It was indeed gratifying to hear the magnificent way the city had met the emergency of laying new water mains and sewers, made necessary by the paving of the new concrete highway through the entire city of Keystone. We were also pleased to hear that the entire bonded debt of Keystone was only \$12,000.00, and that orders had been issued to pay the sum of \$4,000.00 on city bonds not yet due, but will result in a saving (substantial) to the city in interest charges, and leave as our total bonded indebtedness for the city, the small sum of \$8,000.00.

The municipal water works, owned and operated by the people of the city of Keystone, valued at \$100,000.00, came in for discussion of how it might be placed on a more business-like basis, and the advisability of securing meters and general improvement. It was agreed that after all the data and other information relative to the water works had been secured and assembled, proper steps would then be taken to secure the continued efficient operation of our water works, and give to the people of this city the best and cheapest water to be found anywhere in southern West Virginia. It was the consensus of opinion that with our small bonded indebtedness together with reasonable returns from the municipal water works, Keystone may proudly look to the future as becoming the lowest municipal taxed city in southern West Va.

The fire department of the city came in for much praise due to the efficient way it had cut fire losses in the city and surrounding towns and communities. This department consists of a brand new Dodge fully equipped fire fighting truck, new fire hose and efficient personnel. This department has done much to lower the cost of fire insurance on property located in this city. It has also served the surrounding towns and communities in need of fire fighting equipment, for which a small charge is made for such services as may have been rendered.

Everyone spoke in glowing terms of the city of Keystone and its progress. A fine spirit of friendship and enthused optimism pervaded the entire meeting. The audience was reminded that only recently new brick business houses had been constructed and others were contemplating building in the immediate future. Many new residential homes are now being planned and that there was more real estate activity than had been for some time. The speakers attributed this activity to the desire and confidence of the people to live and do business in a city that is located in the heart of the coal fields, where its fiscal affairs are administered by competent officials who believe in pay as you go. Modern conveniences such as newly paved streets and sidewalks, new water mains and sewers almost completed, cheap and low priced business and residential lots on Main St., the cheapest water, electric rates and bonded indebtedness to be found in any city of its size in southern West Virginia. The best bank and the largest wholesale grocery in the coal fields, together with good employment in the nearby mines and railroad were discussed by the speakers.

The meeting closed with a final plea to the public to join with the people of Keystone whose aims are to make this city the best and most progressive to be found in southern West Virginia.

Bluefield State Teachers College Dean's List Is Announced

Bluefield State Teachers college announces the list of students who have attained high honors for scholarship for the first semester of the school year of 1938-39.

The rank of distinction is placed upon these students and they therefore become candidates for Membership in the Zeta Rho Chi honor society. The Dean's List is considered the highest honor to which a student can attain academically. A general average of "B" or higher is the required average.

Theresa Blair, Harry T. Boyd, Claudine Carter, John Carter, Burnon, Connolly, Memphis T. Garrison, Ollie Hargraves, Louise Henderson, William H. Watson, Harry Goodwin, Marie Howard, Alice Hull, Taft Johnson, John F. Little, Frances Moon, Joseph Slash, Paul Starling, Edward Watkins, Helen Whitten, Joseph Gentry, Alberta M. Ross and Isabell Wilson.

Albatross Has 17-Foot Wingspread
The albatross, which sometimes has a wingspread of 17 feet, usually has difficulty in "taking off," having to run some distance to gain momentum before it rises in the air. When on a ship, says Collier's Weekly, it is unable to leave if the top deck does not have sufficient space for a satisfactory "runway."

NO CONTRACT, NO WORK, SAYS AQUINO

...Jesse Aquino, in charge of Pocahontas-Tug River district offices of the United Mine Workers of America, in Welch, said Wednesday night there would be no work in the district after midnight March 31, unless a new contract is signed between the miners and operators now negotiating in New York.

Aquino issued the following statement:

"There will be no work in the Pocahontas and Tug River fields after March 31 unless a new contract is signed by that time.

"All mine committees of each local will furnish maintenance men and not allow any bosses to perform any labor covered by the present contract with the United Mine Workers of America."

Aquino called upon the members of the UWA to "protect the properties of all coal companies until an agreement is reached," and asked the "full cooperation of every miner to this end."

Municipalities Outraged by Legislature—Great Profits of Liquor Sales go to State!

Local Option Helpless People's Only Recourse, Utilize it Now!

Listen Voters and Citizens--

Under the West Virginia Liquor Control Act the first state liquor store was opened at Charleston on May 9, 1935. A total of 105 stores and twenty-six agencies were being operated of December 15, 1938.

McDowell county went on record by a popular vote as being in favor of the establishing of State Liquor stores and their maintenance out of the seven municipalities of the county. The city of Keystone which is known location of store No. 46 had a total sales account amount of business to the tune of \$53,569.80, and when this same city through its representatives at Charleston during the session recently closed asks that at least 10 per cent be appropriated for expenses to maintain the existence of a concern that may not be too overly popular in any city and be turned down, the question arises, WHY? Just think of it, sales at State Stores, and agencies from July 1, 1937 to June 30, 1938 Compiled from data furnished by the W. Va. Liquor Control Commission) amount to \$12,507,813.82, and not one cent allowed to at least one city throughout the whole state for that city's expense. This too, when the city has to bear every burden of every drunk, every killing and every travesty against the peace and dignity of the law of the land.

What does any city receive

for the license to sell liquor in its corporate limits?

Name the city officials and its citizens wherein comes one cent to the citizenry other than just what little rent may be paid to some private property owner.

The Legislature was asked to at least grant to each city a ten per cent allowance with which to meet some of the obligations inherent to this concession and submission of the sale of that which the prohibition amendment denied.

What is the Remedy? Here it is, let's secure twenty-five per cent signers to do away with the local State Stores. Let's call an election, vote on it and do away with the thing if the state thinks a people of honor are not entitled to that which should and could help them to lift their heads above the tax-ridden burden of oppression.

Keystone, one of the most law-abiding cities in the state of West Virginia, despite criticism, feels that it could not hurt itself by doing away with this new and inexplicable set-up. People who drink whiskey or use it for whatever purpose they may choose, would not be opposed to paying that ten cents in the dollar more for the amount of a dollar's charge for a bottle of liquor. Even if there were any just grounds to deny this universal wish, the Liquor Commission would not lose money.

(More next week)

KELLY MILLER SAYS:

A Negro Republican Brain Trust

Dr. Glenn Frank, Chairman of the Republican Program Committee, has appointed Prof. Ralph Bunche of the Department of Political Science in Howard University, to make a painstaking survey of the Negroes' attitude towards the Republican party, with a view, if possible, to induce him to retrace his steps and return to his first love. The shift of the effective Negro vote, in the north and west, from the Republican to the Democratic fold, during the past ten years, has been without parallel among any group of voters within our political history. It has been generally assumed that the cause of this shift was well understood. Such distinguished political tergiversators as Congressman Arthur M. Mitchell, Editor Robert L. Vann, Bishop Reverdy Ransom, and others whose name is legion, during the past eight years have done their best to show the Republican party, the Negro and the nation, the reason for this change of front. The obvious fact does not seem to need any further proof or demonstration. Those are stillstand in need of further enlightenment on this score, thereby evince incapacity to understand plain facts of observation and experience.

It should be carefully understood that the change of political attitude on the part of the Negro is confined mainly, though not wholly, to the enfranchised portion of the race living in free voting states. The Negroes of the south who are practically disfranchised by law, tradition and habit, still persist in the hope and belief that they must look to the Republican party of the north for political salvation. (Continued from Page One)

Shoke-up in State Institutions Decried

Character of Some of Its Superintendents Questioned

...Huntington, W. Va., March 28, 1939. — During the early part of last month a rumor became current in Huntington to the effect that W. B. Fox, Supt. of the West Virginia Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Men and Women, was slated to receive Dana A. Gordon as the Superintendent of the West Va. Colored Childrens Home. Both of these institutions are located in Huntington. Immediately, groups of reputable colored citizens in Huntington swarmed together to ascertain the truthfulness of his bitter news. After a thorough investigation into the matter disclosed the fact that such a step was being contemplated by state authorities in Charleston, telegrams and letters of protest against such a change were sent to the governor of the state, but to no avail. On Tuesday, March 21, the change was consummated.

The McDowell Times in its issue of Friday, March 17th, speaking for 99 per cent of the colored population of McDowell county, and the colored population in general, voiced its sentiments of injustice in no unmistakable language regarding this change and that it would be preposterous to do so. It went so far as to state "Mr. Fox is on record for his untiring efforts to discourage and block every effort to give these orphan children an opportunity and a broad-gauged sense of right to see and appreciate their rightful place in social, domestic and economic life."

From this quotation it is reasonable to believe that the McDowell Times makes reference to Mr. Fox's record when he was Superintendent of the West Virginia Colored Orphans Home (Now known as the West Virginia Colored Childrens Home) a few years back. It was during this period of his official career as superintendent of this institution that he was arrested on a citation issued by Federal Judge McCintie on a charge of contempt of court that grew from, and was the basis of, alleged criminal charges of obtaining money under false pretenses, but that never came up. However, Judge McCintie sentenced Fox to six months in a federal penitentiary at Lorton, Virginia, and he served such a term. Shortly after his release from prison he endeavored to get into good graces with the authorities and thus secure his former position by Mr. Kump, then governor of the state of West Virginia, in view of his sentence and poor record as

superintendent as reflected in his accounts on the condition of the institution would not reinstate him. And now, behold, this same man has been returned to that same institution, and in the same capacity by the present state powers at Charleston, in spite of scores upon scores of pleas and protests made by representative colored living citizens that such a change be not made. Furthermore, only last February a year ago Mr. Fox was installed in the office of the West Virginia Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Men and Women which brought considerable criticism as to the justification of such an appointment being sanctioned by our state officials when there were available, reputable and highly qualified Negroes right here in our midst without any character blemishes.

It is incredible and, in fact, unbelievable, that a disreputable character can enjoy such influence. Is it possible that Mr. Fox is holding an "axe" over the head of some influential business man, or, perhaps, some State Official of unlimited political power?

Purity Malt Bread Wins!

The other day quite a number of bread-eaters, all men, wanting to exemplify what each knew and prove that he was in the majority got into a conversation, each claiming he knew the best bread on the market. So deeply interested were they 'til they decided to get several loaves of bread of the different brands now being sold and without practicing and undue persuasion or regular inducements, they examined the various loaves of bread, tested same by other methods and after a while, they decided to vote secretly. Out of the 12 persons present and taking an active part and deciding to vote, when the votes were counted the results stood: Purity Malt bread rolled up the handsome vote seven to all the other brands receiving the remaining five votes.

Rev. Davis Preaches in Mercer

Rev. J. A. Davis, pastor of the Keystone Presbyterian church, was away from home Sunday filling a long outstanding engagement in Mercer county. The hope is that he had a pleasant and profitable trip. It is good sometimes to exchange pulpits.

Rev. Johnson Speaks a Jaeger

Rev. R. P. Johnson, pastor of Ebenezer Presbyterian church, of Kimball, made a rousing and interesting speech down at Jaeger last Sunday afternoon.

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